

FIRE MOBILIZATION NEWS FROM THE STATE OF WASHINGTON



State Emergency Operations Center Camp Murray, Washington

For immediate release Contact: Trooper Greg Pressel, Washington State Patrol,

253-912-4936 or 360-280-8816

News Release No. 3 Rob Harper, Washington Emergency Management Division,

July 6, 2004 / 3:00 p.m. 800-688-8955

Update: Beebe Fire in Douglas County

CAMP MURRAY - The Beebe Fire continues burn despite efforts from firefighters who have been dispatched from various counties around the state. The fire is burning east of the Columbia River in McNeil canyon, four miles east of Chelan in Douglas County.

Fire activity and threats have increased significantly over the past 12 hours. The fire is estimated at 3,300+ acres and is immediately threatening approximately 200 structures, which includes 100 primary residences and 100 barns/outbuildings. Approximately 50 people and several livestock were evacuated from McNeil canyon and a Level II voluntary evacuation remains in effect. The Red Cross has established a shelter at the Chelan High School.

Approximately 259 firefighters, 63 engines/tenders, 7 20-person hand crews, 9 helicopters, and 9 dozers are actively fighting the fire.

A cold front is forecasted to move through the area this afternoon with predicted gusty winds of 25-30 miles per hour.

Creating a defensible space around your home is a must for residents living in a potential wild land fire area. The following are the 10 steps to defensible space:

- Thin tree and brush cover.
- Dispose of slash and debris left from thinning.
- Remove dead limbs, leaves and other litter.
- Stack firewood away from home.
- Maintain irrigated green belt around the home.
- Mow dry grasses and weeds.
- Prune branches to 10 feet above the ground.
- Trim branches.
- Clean roof and gutters.
- Reduce density of surrounding forest.